

Rifles & Pools

HOOSIER RIVERWATCH-INDIANA'S VOLUNTEER WATER MONITORING PROGRAM

What About the Data?

Breakthrough in State's Use of Riverwatch Data!

Hoosier Riverwatch staff met with representatives of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) in March to discuss use of volunteer stream data. IDEM is the state's official water quality data collection agency. IDEM staff were impressed with improvements in the Hoosier Riverwatch program (especially the online database) and are interested in utilizing the data for watershed assessments and reports to the EPA. The data may also help identify new monitoring locations. However, volunteer data will not be used for regulatory purposes.

Submit Your Water Quality Data Online!

To date, we have 74 individual volunteers and 107 stream sites registered. Volunteers have entered 178 chemical data sets, 119 habitat data sets, and 86 biological data sets.

Entering your data ensures its storage and easy access for use by your group, Hoosier Riverwatch, state agencies, and other researchers. So get on that computer and go to:

www.HoosierRiverwatch.com!

Latitude and Longitude

We have requested site information for years, but now it's even more important. Your latitude and longitude must be identified for IDEM to use any data. In addition, we want to create maps of Indiana's volunteer stream monitoring locations and water quality using Geographic Information Systems. You can obtain your lat/long by using a topographic map, a website, or an electronic GPS receiver. (See page 112 of the HRW manual for more info.) Or, if you live near one of the Volunteer Instructors (see article p. 2) contact him or her for assistance.

Level 2 Training Useful for Hach Kit Users

If you're using a Hach chemical test kit and have never attended a Level 2 workshop, it would be an excellent refresher! You will receive an introduction to the new manual, obtain hands-on experience with each Hach test, and get your questions answered. Attendance at Level 2 training is highly recommended, free & fun!

More data quality information on page 3!

Special Topics Workshops

As promised, three special topics workshops have been planned for this summer! These workshops are for Riverwatch volunteers who have completed Level 1 or 2 training. Each workshop covers the following topics: *E.coli* testing using Easygel, advanced macroinvertebrate identification, and fish ID. Each workshop is scheduled from 10am - 3pm, and is limited to the first thirty (30) registered participants. Please contact the local host listed below to register.

July 21 – Merry Lea Env. Learning Center, Wolf Lake (Noble Co.) - Contact Merry Lea at 219/799-5869.

August 18 – Holliday Park, Indianapolis - Contact Patti Schmid at 317/562-1338.

September 21 – Spring Mill State Park, Mitchell - Contact Missy Shaber at the Lawrence County SWCD at 812/279-8117 x3.

*Happy National Volunteer Week
April 22-28!*

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2001 Training Schedule

More sessions will likely be added later this summer. If you are interested in scheduling a workshop in your area, please contact us at 317/541-0617 or email Mandy at riverinfo@dnr.state.in.us.

**May 19 (Level 1)
Michigan City** - Contact Sandra or Libby with Save the Dunes at 219/879-3564 or sand@savedunes.org

May 23 (Level 1) Hardy Lake (Jefferson Co.)
Contact Amy Carpenter at the Jefferson Co. SWCD at 812/273-2073 x3.

**May 25 (Level 1)
Riverview Middle School
Huntington** - Contact Cheryl Kline at the Huntington Co. SWCD at 219/356-6816 x3.



May 30 (Level 2) Fort Harrison State Park, Indianapolis - Contact Patti Schmid at the NREC at 317/562-1338.

**June 5 (Level 1)
Tippecanoe Battlefield, Lafayette** - Contact Mary Cutler at 765/567-2993.

**June 7 (Level 1)
Logansport (Cass Co.)**
Contact Judy Buttice at the Cass County SWCD at 219/753-4705 x3.

**June 22, 23 (Levels 1&2)
Fort Harrison State Park, Indianapolis** - Contact Patti Schmid at the NREC at 317/562-1338.

**June 28, 29 (Levels 1&2)
McCormick's Creek State Park, Spencer** - Contact Marquita Manley at the Nature Center 812/829-4344.

**July 19, 20 (Levels 1&2)
Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center, Wolf Lake (Noble Co.)** - Contact Merry Lea at 219/799-5869.

**July 25, 26 (Levels 1 & 2)
Camp Collum (Clinton Co.)**
Contact the Clinton County SWCD at 765/659-1223 x3.

**August 3-4 (Volunteer Instructor Training)
Location TBA** - Contact Mandy Burk at the Riverwatch office for an application 317/541-0617.

August 22 (Level 1) Ruth Lilly YMCA, St. Paul (Shelby Co.) - Contact Jim Parry at 765/525-6730.

September 5, 6 (Levels 1 & 2) - Elkhart and St. Joseph Co. Contact Nancy Brown at the Elkhart County SWCD at 219/533-4383 x3.

**September 22 (Level 1)
Minnetrista Cultural Center, Muncie** - Contact Minnetrista 765/213-3549.

Training sessions are open to any interested adult; contact the local host for additional information and to register. Although workshops are free, you must register in advance due to class size limits. Each workshop is held from 9am-4pm. Participants are eligible to enter data into the statewide volunteer monitoring Internet database.

Riverwatch Volunteer Water Monitoring Instructors

Seven top Hoosier Riverwatch volunteers became certified Volunteer Water Monitoring Instructors at a two-day overnight training held at Camp Mack in Milford, IN on March 23-24. The Volunteer Instructors will perform Level 1 & 2 training workshops and serve as local contacts for volunteers. If you or your group would like training, monitoring assistance, help obtaining the latitude and longitude of your stream site using a GPS receiver, or have your water monitoring questions answered - contact your local Volunteer Instructor!

Nancy Brown
Elkhart County SWCD
219/533-4383 x3
nancy-brown@iaswcd.org

Darci Zolman
Kosciusko County SWCD
219/267-7445 x3
darci-zolman@iaswcd.org

Mike Mayfield
Indiana Academy, Muncie
765/284-0932
mmayfiel@gw.bsu.edu

Mary Cutler
Tippecanoe County Parks & Recreation, West Lafayette
765/567-2993

Cynthia Merrill
Dearborn Stream Team
812/537-1277
cynthiam@bigfoot.com

Amy Carpenter
Jefferson County SWCD
812/273-2073 x3
amy-carpenter@iaswcd.org

Amy Steeples
IDNR Soil Conservation
Evansville
812/867-0729
amy.steeple@in.usda.gov

Contact Riverwatch to receive an application for the second Volunteer Instructor training. The workshop will be held **Friday-Saturday, August 3-4**. The **application deadline is July 6**! It will be held south of Indy, although the site has not yet been selected.



Left to right: (Front) Nancy Brown, Darci Zolman; (Back) Mike Mayfield, Amy Steeples, Amy Carpenter, Cynthia Merrill, Mary Cutler




Chemical Expiration Dates

How often do test chemicals expire? It depends upon both the kit and the test. All of GREEN kit chemicals expire 3 years from the time they're received. If you received a grant from Riverwatch in 2000, the chemicals in the kit will expire in May 2003.

The Coliscan Easygel *E. coli* test from Micrology Laboratories will last up to 6 months if frozen. Thawed and refrigerated Easygel is usable for up to 2 weeks.

Hach powder pillows have expiration dates printed on them. The DO 3 reagent (in the white plastic tub) has a shelf life of 5 years. (See example below, to determine when the kit was manufactured). Sodium Thiosulfate needs to be replaced every year. The more frequently the other liquids are used (i.e. the acid and base used in Total Phosphate test), the more often they should be replaced - once every year or two.

To determine when a Hach chemical was made, look for a lot code: **A 1 0 2 3**

- ◆ Ignore the letter (A). 
- ◆ The first digit is the last number in the year it was made (2001). 
- ◆ The last three digits are the day of the year it was produced (23rd day of 2001). 

Data Quality

Nitrate & Turbidity

While performing periodic quality checks on the Internet database, Mandy has noticed some odd data, particularly for nitrate and turbidity. For Nitrate, be sure you follow the instructions in the manual, and multiply the result you read off the color wheel by 4.4 to obtain Nitrate NO_3 . For Turbidity, be sure to enter your results in NTUs - not centimeters or inches. You can determine NTUs by using the Q-value scale on page 63 of the Riverwatch manual.

If you realize you have made an error, please contact Mandy at the Hoosier Riverwatch office. Provide your Volunter ID, Site ID, the sampling date, and explain any changes that need to be made.

Elementary Success

Four elementary school students from the Prince of Peace Lutheran School in Martinsville came away with top honors in a poster contest at the Indiana Rural Health Association conference, June 21-23. Their entry beat out university biology students and state sanitary engineers.

The project compared macro-invertebrates in two streams, one degraded and one that's clean. They found many Dragonfly, Caddisfly and Stonefly larvae in the clean stream. These were totally absent in the degraded stream; its inhabitants were maggots that use breathing tubes, which extend above the water surface to obtain needed oxygen that is largely missing from the stream.

Riverwatch grant recipient Rena Sheldon says her daughter, a 2nd grader this year, will get her chance to participate in the two-year Riverwatch project during the next school year. "What we wanted to do was monitor two creeks in our area," she says, "and provide our students with some memorable experiences with scientific research."

◆ Submitted by the Indiana State Dept. of Health

Congratulations to the 43 Organizations Awarded Hoosier Riverwatch 2001 Water Monitoring Equipment Grants!

Abraham Lincoln Elementary
Arlington High School - Science Club
Boonville High School
Boy Scout Troop 730
Bradford Woods - Indiana University
Carroll County SWCD
Center Grove Middle School
Crooked Creek Elementary School
Doe Creek Middle School
Eastern Greene Jr/Sr High School
Elkhart Enviro Corps
Fayette County SWCD
Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation
Franklin College
Fulton Junior High School/Hot Shots
Gibault
Goshen Parks & Recreation
Harlan Christian Youth Center
Harrison High School - Ecology Club
Highland High School
McCormick's Creek State Park
McCutcheon High School

Indianapolis
Indianapolis
Boonville
Warsaw
Martinsville
Delphi
Greenwood
Indianapolis
New Palestine
Bloomfield
Elkhart
Connersville
Fort Wayne
Franklin
Indianapolis
Terre Haute
Goshen
Harlan
Lafayette
Highland
Spencer
Lafayette

Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center
Mooresville High School
Mt. Vernon High School
North Vigo High School
Posey County SWCD
Purdue-American Fisheries Society
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Save the Dunes Conservation Fund
Scott County SWCD
SOLE-Save Our Land and Environment
Southwood Elementary School
St. Vincent DePaul School
Tippecanoe County Parks & Recreation
Tipton Lakes Community Association
Washington County SWCD
Washington Middle School
WAVES/Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D
White River Watchers
Whiteland Community High School
William Henry Harrison High School
Yellowwood Lake Watershed Planning/
Yellowwood State Forest
Wolf Lake
Mooresville
Mt. Vernon
West Terre Haute
Mt. Vernon
West Lafayette
Terre Haute
Michigan City
Scottsburg
Mt. Vernon
Wabash
Fort Wayne
West Lafayette
Columbus
Salem
Evansville
Versailles
Anderson
Whiteland
West Lafayette
Nashville

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

The first Hoosier Riverwatch volunteer appreciation picnic will be held on Saturday, June 2, at 11:30 a.m., at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis! It will be a pitch in, with cold meat and drinks provided. To RSVP, contact Patti Schmid at pschmid@dnr.state.in.us or 317/562-1338, you will receive additional information and directions.

Sierra Club's Ride the River Event

The Sierra Club's annual canoe event to promote Indiana's rivers and streams, *Ride the River*, will be held Sat., May 19. Canoes will start on the White River in Broad Ripple on Indianapolis' north side and take out down town, a trip of about 8 miles. *Ride the River* is a fundraiser to assist in clean water programs and activities across the state. Transportation from the end to the starting point is arranged and canoes are being brought in from across central Indiana. For more information and to register, call 317 /466-9992 or visit <http://hoosier.sierraclub.org/> & "click" on the canoe.

Website Answers Fish"y" Questions

Want a timely, accurate, and consistent response to questions related to fisheries and aquatic resources? Check out this new website: www.ai.org/dnr/fishwild/fishing/faqopen.htm

Welcome 2 New Adopt-A-River Group!

**IU South Bend Earth Corps
St. Joseph River (South Bend)
Purdue Subunit of the American
Fisheries Society - Wabash River**



* Remember: National River Cleanup Week is May 12-19. To register call (865) 558-3595 or go online to www.americaoutdoors.org.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

HOOSIER RIVERWATCH
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